

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-6 are in the application. The Abstract and claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract. Applicant submits herewith a new shorter Abstract. The Examiner required that a reference listed in the specification be submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant submits herewith a supplemental IDS.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC 112. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3 and 4 to further clarify the invention. In particular, the term "unmachined" has been deleted, and the process by which the combustion bowl is formed has been added. Support for this can be found on page 10, last paragraph of the specification. Claim 4 has been amended to specify that the welding takes place after heating and that the blank is forged in a heated state.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over PCT WP 02/06658 in view of Nakano and rejected claims 2, 3 and 6 over these references and further in view of Ricaud et al. Claims 4 and 5 were rejected over WO 02/06658 in view of Nakano et al. and further in view of Rudd. Applicant respectfully traverses.

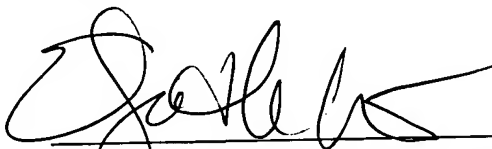
Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the welding takes place in such a manner that the cover surfaces of the parts are free from a weld connection. Support for this can be found in the specification on page 11, last paragraph, and in FIG. 2, reference number 11.

Williams (WO 02/06658) teaches that blanks are welded over their full area with their cover surfaces, before forging of the blanks, in order to prevent the formation of an oxidation layer on the cover surfaces. In contrast, such a step is not necessary in the method according to the present invention, since the formation of such layers, which greatly reduce the strength of the blanks in their forged state, can be eliminated. Only "basting" by means of a minimal number of weld points on the outer circumference is necessary.

Neither Williams nor Nakano nor any of the other documents teach a person skilled in the art that full-area welding is not necessary. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-6 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KARLHEINZ BING ET AL.



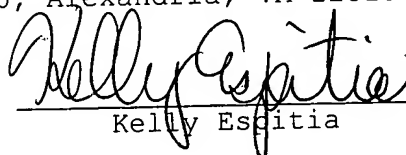
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Enclosure: Copy of Petition for a 1-month extension of time

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 29, 2006.


Kelly Escitia